

## NOTES ON THE GENUS SEIOPTERA KIRBY (OTITIDÆ, DIPTERA)

BY SAMUEL C. HARRIOT

This study is based on material in the collections of the American Museum of Natural History, William Procter, Cornell University, and the California Academy of Sciences.

The genus contains three described species to which another is now added. The following key will help to separate them.

### TABLE OF SPECIES

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Costal cell hyaline or at most slightly yellowish as far as the humeral cross-vein .....   | 2                       |
| Costal cell dark brown or blackish as far as and a little beyond the humeral cross-vein .....   | 3                       |
| 2. Mesonotum with two narrow longitudinal whitish pollinose stripes; base and tip of the marginal cell dark brown.....  | <i>dubiosa</i> Johnson  |
| Mesonotum with just a trace of pollinose stripes at the anterior margin; only the extreme tip of the marginal cell brown.....                                     | <i>vibrans</i> Linnæus  |
| 3. Mesonotum with two narrow longitudinal pollinose stripes extending beyond the middle; wings hyaline; apical two or three segments of tarsi brown or black..... | <i>colon</i> Loew       |
| 4. Mesonotum without pollinose stripes; wings with a yellowish tinge; tarsi completely pale yellowish.....  | <i>currani</i> , n. sp. |

### *Seioptera vibrans* Linnæus

1758. *Musca vibrans* Linnæus, Syst. Nat., 10 ed., p. 599.

This species, the type of the genus, was originally described from Europe. It occurs rather commonly in the Middle Atlantic States and New England, and has been recorded from Idaho, Oregon and Canada. *Vibrans* is closely related to *colon* and the differences are discussed below.

### *Seioptera colon* Loew

1867. *Seoptera colon* Loew, Berl. Zeitschr., vol. 11, p. 296, fig.

1873. *Seoptera colon* Loew, 'Mon. N. A. Dipt.,' pt. 3, p. 152, fig.

There are three somewhat faded specimens of this species, from the Osten Sacken collection, in the American Museum of Natural History. All three were collected in New York. They bear his

determination label and are part of the lot from which specimens were sent to Loew for examination. Loew also saw specimens from Illinois (Kennicott).

Loew states that the front of *colon* is wider than that of *vibrans*; that the two whitish stripes of the thorax in *colon*, although little apparent, can easily be traced beyond the middle of the dorsum while in *vibrans* it is with difficulty that their anterior end alone can be perceived; also that the costal cell of *colon* is blackish as far and even a little beyond the humeral cross-vein while in *vibrans* this cell is entirely hyaline as far as the extreme basis.

A comparison, by the writer, of over eighty specimens of *vibrans* with the three Osten Sacken specimens of *colon* shows the above differences to be constant. Several other differences based on the color of the abdomen and stigma, and shape of the apical spot, although more difficult to see, appear to be present.

#### *Scioptera dubiosa* Johnson

1921. *Scioptera dubiosa* Johnson, Occ. Papers Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., vol. 5, p. 15.

This species was described from a single female collected at Northeast Harbor, Maine. There is a female specimen in the collection of William Procter from Bar Harbor, Maine. This specimen appears to differ slightly from the type. Johnson, in his description, states that the thorax is brownish-black, shining, with two subdorsal pruinose stripes; humeri yellow. The mesonotum of the Procter specimen is shining black, however, the greater portion of the anterior margin, except between the stripes, as well as the ground color beneath the stripes is yellowish. The scutellum is more reddish than black.

The mesonotal stripes in *dubiosa* are farther apart than in *colon*, and more distinct. The front of *dubiosa* and the following species is wider than that of either *vibrans* or *colon*, the face is more concave and the arista more pubescent. In *vibrans* and *colon* the arista appears to be bare.

#### *Scioptera currani* new species

Related to *dubiosa* but differs in having a wholly shining black mesonotum without a trace of pollinose stripes, completely yellow tarsi, and lacks the brown spot at the base of the marginal cell. Length, exclusive of ovipositor, 5 mm.

Female.—Front reddish, opaque, the red color continued as an arch behind the black ocellar area; frontal orbits very narrowly pollinose on the lower half. Front as wide as the greatest width of either eye. Occiput shining black, more brownish below. Cheeks shining yellow, somewhat brownish posteriorly. Face concave, pale shining yellow, orbits broadly whitish pollinose. Antennæ reddish yellow, third segment rounded above; arista sparsely pubescent. Proboscis dark brown or black; palpi yellowish.

Thorax shining black, mesonotum without any trace of pollinose stripes. Legs black, front and middle tibiæ brownish, tarsi yellow.

Wings hyaline with a yellowish tinge. Costa, above the stigma and apically, black; otherwise yellowish. Auxiliary vein, first longitudinal vein, and apices of second and third longitudinal veins black; other veins yellowish. Costal cell as far and a little beyond the humeral cross-vein, subcostal cell including the stigma, tip of the marginal, tip of the submarginal, and part of the tip of the posterior cell dark brown or black. Squamæ and halteres white.

Abdomen and ovipositor shining black.

Types.—Holotype, female, Tuxedo, New York, June 26, 1928 (C. H. Curran), in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History. Paratype, female, Ithaca, New York, June 1, 1913 (H. H. Knight), in the Cornell University collection.